

UK and Brexit

Part III

Development between 1993 -2025

- Britain had special exceptions in the EU, such as not using the euro and not joining the Schengen Area.
- Even when the Labour government supported the EU, many people in Britain were against deeper integration.
- After the 2008 economic crisis, the UK recovered faster than many eurozone countries, partly because it kept its own currency.
- Later, the Conservative government promised a referendum on EU membership, which led to Brexit. In the 2016 referendum, **51.89%** voted to leave the EU.
- The UK negotiated its exit from 2017 to 2019 and officially left the EU in January 2020, with later talks continuing (especially about Northern Ireland).

The referendum was used as an election promise by then Prime Minister David Cameron, but he himself did not expect this result at the time.

Causes of Brexit

- New trade agreement – free trade without tariffs, but with new border controls.
- End of freedom of movement – British and EU citizens can no longer work and live freely in the other country without restrictions.
- Problems in trade and logistics – delays at borders, higher costs, and complications for businesses.
- Economic impacts – slower growth, weaker pound, departure of some companies and financial institutions.
- Political instability, polarization of society.
- Some people in the UK were unhappy with the EU because they felt it limited control over borders and made too many rules.
- Others believed the UK would do better economically outside the EU, and opposition to the EU had existed for many years.



Effects of Brexit on EU and UK

2-12 min.



Spolufinancováno
Evropskou unií

UK and Brexit Part III

Review questions and images

1. Why did the UK not join the ECSC or the EEC?
2. What was the British rebate and why did it happen?
3. What opt-outs (exceptions) did the UK negotiate within the EU?
4. How did trade between the EU and the UK change after 2020?
5. Why did Prime Minister David Cameron promise a referendum on remaining in the EU?

Events:

1. Lack of goods in the first months of Brexit.
2. Trucks waiting at UK's borders.
3. Brexit campaign themed bus



Image A



Image B



Image C



Spolufinancováno
Evropskou unií

UK and Brexit

Part III

Lesson Plan

Learning Objectives

- Explain why the UK had a special position in the EU
- Describe the main causes of Brexit
- Identify some consequences of Brexit
- Answer the review questions based on the reading text

Materials

- printed teaching material (Part III)

Lesson Structure (45 minutes)

0–5 min – Starter

Teacher asks:

1. What is Brexit?
2. When did the UK leave the EU?
3. Students briefly share their ideas.

Teacher introduces the topic: Brexit and its causes and consequences.

5–12 min – Timeline Activity

Students read the sections:

- Development between 1993–2025
- Causes of Brexit.

Teacher asks students to underline two causes and one consequence of Brexit.

Short clarification of key vocabulary if needed:

- referendum
- freedom of movement
- trade agreement

12–18 min – Causes of Brexit

Teacher asks students:

- Why did some people want the UK to leave the EU?

Students answer using the text.

Expected answers:

- desire for more control over borders
- belief the UK would do better economically outside the EU
- criticism of EU rules and regulations
- long-term euroscepticism

18–28 min – Video

Students watch a short video about Brexit consequences.

Teacher asks:

- What economic problems after Brexit are mentioned in the video?

Possible answers:

- problems in trade
- border delays
- economic uncertainty



Spolufinancováno
Evropskou unií

UK and Brexit

Part III

28–33 min – Consequences of Brexit

Students look at the images.

Teacher asks:

- What event corresponds to each image ?

Answers:

- A - Lack of goods in the first months of Brexit
- B - Trucks waiting at UK's borders.
- C - Brexit campaign themed bus

33–42 min – Review Questions

- Students answer the 5 review questions from the material.
- Teacher checks answers with the class.

Possible answers:

1. Britain wanted to keep political and economic independence and preferred looser economic cooperation.
2. The British rebate (1984) reduced the UK's payments to the EU budget because Britain believed it was paying too much compared to the benefits it received.
3. The UK did not adopt the euro and did not join the Schengen Area.
4. Trade continued but with new border controls, delays and higher costs.
5. Because of political pressure and growing euroscepticism in the UK.

42–45 min – Exit Question

Students write:

- one cause of Brexit
- one consequence of Brexit

Teacher collects a few answers.



Spolufinancováno
Evropskou unií

UK and Brexit

Part III

Sources

- Bulmer, S., & Lequesne, C. (2020). The member states of the European Union (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Cini, M., & Borragán, N. P.-S. (2022). European Union politics (7th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- European Union. History of the EU, EU pioneers. European Union. Retrieved from: https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu_en
- CVCE.EU. 1958–1968 Successes and crises - Historical events in the European integration process (1945–2009). CVCE Website. Retrieved from: <https://www.cvce.eu/en/collections/unit-content/-/unit/02bb76df-d066-4c08-a58a-d4686a3e68ff/6f8b270c-ec7b-4d21-b1d9-e36d7438d236>
- Nugent, N. (2018). Brexit: Yet another crisis for the EU. In B. Martill & U. Staiger (Eds.), *Brexit and Beyond: Rethinking the Futures of Europe* (pp. 54–62). UCL Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt20krxf8.11>

Financováno Evropskou unií. Názory vyjádřené jsou názory autora a neodráží nutně oficiální stanovisko Evropské unie či Evropské výkonné agentury pro vzdělávání a kulturu (EACEA). Evropská unie ani EACEA za vyjádřené názory nenesou odpovědnost.



Spolufinancováno
Evropskou unií